

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently amended) A database ~~for use~~ used in managing a pricing agent in a computer, comprising:

a pricing profile table comprising a set of profile records, each record identifying a URL site, a list of included items, a scan interval, and a pointer to a site template;

a site template table comprising a set of site templates, each site template comprising ~~lexical~~ instructions for parsing a data stream to identify given data; and

a price table comprising a set of pricing records, each record identifying an item name, an associated price value, a date and a time said record was created, and at least one a source, wherein price data corresponding to said item name is automatically collected with a periodicity equal to the scan interval to produce historical data.

18. (Previously presented) The database of claim 17 further including a threshold table comprising a set of threshold records, each record identifying a threshold type, a threshold value, and a threshold comparison operator.

19. (Currently amended) The database of claim 17 wherein each profile record further includes a list of excluded items such that information is not collected for a given item in the list of excluded items, even if the given item matches an included item in a fuzzy matching algorithm.

20. (Currently amended) A computer used to manage a pricing agent, comprising:

a browser;

a database comprising:

a pricing profile table comprising a set of profile records, each record identifying a URL site, a list of included items, a scan interval, and a pointer to a site template;

a site template table comprising a set of site templates, each site template comprising ~~lexical~~ instructions for parsing a data stream to identify given data; and

a price table comprising a set of pricing records, each record identifying an item name, and associated price value, a date and a time said record was created, and at least one a source; and

code executable in the browser during processing of a given pricing profile record at the scan interval for parsing data retrieved from the URL site according to the site template to generate a data record for each included item, wherein price data corresponding to said item name is automatically collected with a periodicity equal to the scan interval to produce historical data.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously presented) The database of claim 17, wherein the database receives queries from a pricing agent.

23. (Previously presented) The database of claim 22, wherein the pricing agent provides data to the database using the set of profile records.

24. (Previously presented) The database of claim 17, wherein the pricing table provides an identification of URL sites to be scanned for data.

25. (Previously presented) The database of claim 18, wherein the threshold table indicates when a threshold condition is reached to trigger a threshold event.

26. (Previously presented) The database of claim 25, wherein threshold event is a sending of an email.

27. (Previously presented) The database of claim 25, wherein the site templates include matching criteria.

28. (Currently amended) The database of claim 25, wherein each site template includes a scanning template that indicates [[who]] how to scan for item names and corresponding prices.

29. (New) A computer used to manage a pricing agent, comprising:
a browser;
a database comprising:

a pricing profile table comprising a set of profile records, each record identifying a URL site, a list of included items, a list of excluded items, a scan interval, and a pointer to a site template, wherein information is not collected for a given item in the list of excluded items, even if the given item matches an included item in a fuzzy matching algorithm;

a site template table comprising a set of site templates, each site template containing instructions for parsing a data stream to identify given data, a scanning template that indicates how to scan for item names and corresponding prices, and matching criteria;

a price table comprising a set of pricing records, each record identifying an item name, and associated price value, a date and a time said record was created, and a source;

a threshold table comprising a set of threshold records, each record identifying a threshold type, a threshold value, and a threshold comparison operator, wherein when a threshold condition is reached, a message is sent to a user;

code executable in the browser during processing of a given pricing profile record at the scan interval for parsing data retrieved from the URL site according to the site template to generate a data record for each included item, wherein price data corresponding to said item name is automatically collected with a periodicity equal to the scan interval to produce historical data.